

What is claimed is:

1. A gas detecting element comprising:
 - a hollow container;
 - an optical density detection window that is not gas-permeable formed on one
 - 5 side of said container to allow optical density detection;
 - a gas-permeable window formed on the opposing side of said container; and
 - a reagent that exhibits coloration by reaction with a gas to be measured housed
 - in a space between said windows.
- 10 2. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - said optical density detection window is constituted by affixing a transparent,
 - non-permeable film to a frame that constitutes said container.
3. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - 15 said optical density detection window is formed at the same time as injection
 - molding of said container with a transparent, non-permeable material.
4. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - a reagent absorbent material impregnated with said reagent is housed in said
 - 20 space.
5. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - a light-reflective surface is formed on the side of said gas-permeable window
 - facing said reagent absorbent material.

6. A gas detecting device comprising:

a gas exposure portion that opens to a sampling flow path; and

an optical density measuring portion provided with a light-emitting means facing said exposure portion and light receiving means,

5 wherein said exposure portion and said optical density measuring portion are oppositely disposed in a separateable manner, and a gas detecting element is housed so that a gas inflow side of the gas detecting element faces the gas exposure portion and an optical density detection portion of the gas detecting element faces said optical density measuring portion.

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7. A gas detecting device according to claim 6, wherein said optical density detection portion and said gas detecting element are constituted so as to maintain airtightness.